

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of the Claims replaces all prior listings of the claims within this application.

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 are amended herein.

Claim 6 is canceled herein.

1. (currently amended) A method for upgrading a computer system comprising:

providing a computer system having associated therewith an upgrade management utility, the upgrade management utility providing for a buffering of a series of incoming requests to the computer system when upgrading the computer system while operating the computer system, to thus provide an uninterrupted idle state when upgrading the computer system when operating the computer system;

executing the upgrade management utility when operating the computer system to effect the uninterrupted idle state;

upgrading the computer system within the uninterrupted idle state with a firmware upgrade or a hardware upgrade to provide an upgraded computer system while accumulating a series of buffered incoming requests; and

terminating the upgrade management utility after upgrading the computer system within the uninterrupted idle state and releasing the series of buffered incoming requests for operation within the upgraded computer system.

2. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the computer system is operated within a facility selected from the group consisting of chemical fabrication facilities, mechanical fabrication facilities and electrical fabrication facilities.~~

A method for upgrading a computer system comprising:

providing a computer system operated within a facility selected from the group consisting of chemical fabrication facilities, mechanical fabrication facilities and electrical fabrication facilities, the computer system having associated therewith an upgrade management utility, the upgrade management utility providing for a buffering of a series of incoming requests to the

computer system when upgrading the computer system while operating the computer system, to thus provide an uninterrupted idle state when upgrading the computer system when operating the computer system;

executing the upgrade management utility when operating the computer system to effect the uninterrupted idle state;

upgrading the computer system within the uninterrupted idle state to provide an upgraded computer system while accumulating a series of buffered incoming requests; and

terminating the upgrade management utility after upgrading the computer system within the uninterrupted idle state and releasing the series of buffered incoming requests for operation within the upgraded computer system.

3. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the computer system is operated within a microelectronic fabrication facility.~~

A method for upgrading a computer system comprising:

providing a computer system operated within a microelectronic fabrication facility, the computer system having associated therewith an upgrade management utility, the upgrade management utility providing for a buffering of a series of incoming requests to the computer system when upgrading the computer system while operating the computer system, to thus provide an uninterrupted idle state when upgrading the computer system when operating the computer system;

executing the upgrade management utility when operating the computer system to effect the uninterrupted idle state;

upgrading the computer system within the uninterrupted idle state to provide an upgraded computer system while accumulating a series of buffered incoming requests; and

terminating the upgrade management utility after upgrading the computer system within the uninterrupted idle state and releasing the series of buffered incoming requests for operation within the upgraded computer system.

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4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the upgrade management utility is resident within the computer system.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the upgrade management utility is not resident within the computer system.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A system for upgrading a computer system comprising:

a computer system; and

an upgrade management utility associated with the computer system, wherein the upgrade management utility provides for a buffering of a series of incoming requests to the computer system when upgrading the computer system with a firmware upgrade or a hardware upgrade while operating the computer system, to thus provide an uninterrupted idle state when upgrading the computer system when operating the computer system.

8. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 7 wherein the computer system is operated within a facility selected from the group consisting of chemical fabrication facilities, mechanical fabrication facilities and electrical fabrication facilities.~~

A system for upgrading a computer system comprising:

a computer system operated within a facility selected from the group consisting of chemical fabrication facilities, mechanical fabrication facilities and electrical fabrication facilities; and

an upgrade management utility associated with the computer system, wherein the upgrade management utility provides for a buffering of a series of incoming requests to the computer system when upgrading the computer system while operating the computer system, to thus provide an uninterrupted idle state when upgrading the computer system when operating the computer system.

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9. (currently amended) ~~The system of claim 7 wherein the computer system is operated within a microelectronic fabrication facility.~~

A system for upgrading a computer system comprising:

a computer system operated within a microelectronic fabrication facility; and
an upgrade management utility associated with the computer system, wherein the upgrade
management utility provides for a buffering of a series of incoming requests to the computer
system when upgrading the computer system while operating the computer system, to thus
provide an uninterrupted idle state when upgrading the computer system when operating the
computer system.

10. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein the upgrade management utility is resident within the computer system.

11. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein the upgrade management utility is not resident within the computer system.